

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the final Office Action dated April 4, 2007.

I. Status of the Claims

Prior to this amendment, claims 1-12 and 20-38 were pending. Claims 1, 20, and 36 have been amended to incorporate limitations from a dependent claim determined to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Dependent claims 3, 25, and 37 have thus been canceled. Claims 29-35 are allowed. Claims 13-19 were previously withdrawn from consideration and now cancelled.

II. Response to April 4 Office Action

Claims 3-5, 7-11, 22-25, 28, and 37 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 12, 20, 21, 26, 27, 36, and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Gibson (6,473,388) in view of Libove et al. (5,473,244). In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested. Applicants address the rejections separately as to each independent claim and the claims that depend therefrom.

1. Claims 1, 2 and 4-12

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitation from previous claim 3, which was determined to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Thus, amended claim 1, and claims 2 and 4-12 dependent thereon, are in immediate condition for allowance.

2. Claims 20-24 and 26-28

Claim 20 has been amended to incorporate the limitation from previous claim 25, which was determined to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Thus, amended claim 20, and claims 21-24 and 26-28 dependent thereon, are in immediate condition for allowance.

3. Claims 29-35

Claims 29-35 are allowed.

4. Claims 36 and 38

Claim 36 has been amended to incorporate the limitation from previous claim 37, which was determined to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Thus, amended claim 36, and claim 38 dependent thereon, are in immediate condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the above application is in condition for allowance, and reconsideration is respectfully requested. If there is any matter that the Examiner would like to discuss, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below. In any event, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith to our Deposit Account No. 13-2855, under Order No. 30320/15121.

Dated: May 14, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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